This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Plant-based platform to generate recombinant human butyrylcholinesterase (BChE)	A plant-based platform could provide a sustainable source of recombinant human BChE, an enzyme that prevents poisoning from organophosphorus pesticides and nerve agents. Recombinant human BChE produced in plants had protein and enzymatic properties that were similar to those of plasma-derived human BChE. In mouse models of pesticide and nerve agent poisoning, unconjugated plant-derived human BChE given prophylactically decreased mortality compared with vehicle controls. Next steps could include using the plant-based platform to generate human BChE variants with increased efficacy. SciBX 3(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1428 Published online Dec. 9, 2010	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Geyer, B.C. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 8, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1009021107 Contact: Tsafrir S. Mor, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. e-mail: tsafrir.mor@asu.edu